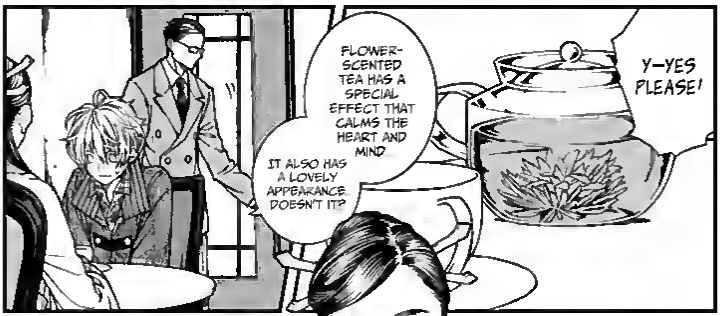
THANK YOU, YUE.
NOW GO AND REST UP SO YOU'LL BE READY FOR TOMORROW.
YES, MADAM! THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!

SEE YOU LATER, JAY!
TAKE A SEAT.
A-ALRIGHT
THE TEA'S JUST FINISHED
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME?


Y-YES PLEASE!
FLOWER-SCENTED TEA HAS A SPECIAL EFFECT THAT CALMS THE HEART AND MIND
IT ALSO HAS A LOVELY APPEARANCE. DOESN'T IT?

NOW THEN,
COULD YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO ME?

Y... YES!
UM, MY NAME IS JAY!
I'M CURRENTLY A STREET CHILD!
I'M SIXTEEN YEARS OLD, AND I'VE BEEN A STREET CHILD SINCE I WAS SIX!
MY SPECIAL SKILL IS MEMORIZATION! MY HOBBIES ARE...
JAY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO NERVOUS
DON'T THINK OF IT AS A JOB INTERVIEW. JUST TREAT IT LIKE A RELAXED CHAT BETWEEN FRIENDS
OH...

SO WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED WAS, MISS YUE'S FRIEND ASKED HER TO INTRODUCE ME
ACTUALLY, I ONLY JUST MET MISS YUE TODAY
BY THE WAY, I HEARD THAT YOU WERE REFERRED BY YUE
WHAT IS YOUR RELATION TO HER?
YUE'S FRIEND?
YES, HIS NAME IS TAKAOMI SHIRABE...
!
WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO COME HERE, THEN?
OH MY, YOU'VE COME QUITE A LONG WAY...
.....

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I'M REALLY, REALLY SORRY...
UM!
I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THESE SHOWS OR THIS CLUB.
THE REASON I CAME HERE WASN'T REALLY BECAUSE I WANTED TO WORK HERE.
I... I ASKED FOR SOMETHING REALLY RUDE AND UNREASONABLE FROM HIM.
SO INSTEAD OF THAT, HE DID ME A FAVOR AND DIRECTED ME HERE.

BUT I ALWAYS RAN AWAY, TELLING MYSELF THAT "IT'S BECAUSE I'M JUST A KID!"
HE EVEN SAVED ME FROM SLAVE TRADERS,
AND I STILL HAVEN'T THANKED HIM...
I KNEW ALL ALONG THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING I HAD TO DO BY MYSELF...
BUT I KNEW IT!
I AM VERY SORRY
BECAUSE OF MY SELFISHNESS, I CAUSED A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR MANY PEOPLE

I THINK... I'M GOING TO TRY AND WORK IT OUT ON MY OWN.
...MAY I ASK IF YOU HAVE ANY ACTUAL PLANS?
...NONE... BUT.. STILL...
THEN MAY I MAKE A SUGGESTION?
A SUGGESTION...?
YES
LET'S SEE, HOW ABOUT..

IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO SURVIVE ALONE IN THE THIRD WARD
YOUR HANDS ARE FULL WITH JUST LIVING DAY TO DAY, SO OF COURSE YOU ARE UNABLE TO FOCUS ON ANYTHING ELSE
WHAT...?
UNTIL YOU FIGURE OUT HOW TO "WORK IT OUT ON YOUR OWN,"
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE WORK HERE AT ZUI DIE HUA?
WITH NO TIME TO STOP AND THINK, ONE TENDS TO UNWISELY RUSH FOR THE FIRST SOLUTION THAT COMES TO MIND.
I'M SURE HE UNDERSTOOD THAT TOO.
THAT IS THE REASON WHY YOU ASKED FOR THE UNREASONABLE, RIGHT?
IT TAKES FOCUS AND MEDITATION TO TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR PRESENT AND FUTURE
SO RIGHT NOW, YOU REQUIRE FREEDOM AND TIME TO DO JUST THAT

EVERYONE HAS A DIFFERENT REASON.
SOMEONE EVEN CAME HERE SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY WERE HUNGRY!
I'M JUST SOME KID WHO'S APPLYING FOR A STUPID REASON...
BUT...
EVERYONE HERE SEEMS TO TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THEIR JOBS...
NO NEED TO FRET..
DON'T BE AFRAID TO REFUSE.
AFTER ALL, COMING TO WORK HERE WOULD MEAN GIVING UP A LOT OF YOUR TIME.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE IMMEDIATELY.
YOU'D REALLY...
Y...
UNTIL YOU MAKE YOUR DECISION, FEEL FREE TO STAY HERE..

YES.
WE'LL— WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS!
...HIRE SOMEONE LIKE ME?
EVEN THOUGH I MIGHT BE COMPLETELY USELESS...?
I... I'LL DO MY BEST!
...
TH... THANK YOU SO MUCH!
I HOPE YOU GET ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE AS WELL!
OKAY, JAY?
THEN THAT ROOM WILL OFFICIALLY BE YOURS!
EXCEL-LENT!

YOU SAID YOU WERE A STREET CHILD, CORRECT?
LET'S GET YOU AN ID WITH ZUI DIE HUA'S ADDRESS LIKE THE OTHER CHILDREN.
OH! MY ID IS....
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT.
I WILL BE YOUR LEGAL GUARDIAN.
ONCE THE PUBLIC OFFICE OPENS, LET'S GO PROCESS AN ID FOR YOU
OKAY!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE HEARD THAT NAME.

SO SHE'S STILL BEEN IN CONTACT WITH HIM...
THAT YUE...
I THINK IT'S GOOD THAT SHE HAS A FRIEND OUTSIDE OF ZUI DIE HUA.
AT LEAST THREE YEARS, RIGHT?
TAKAOMI SHIRABE...
YUE ISN'T A CHILD ANYMORE
SHE UNDERSTANDS HOW TO CHOOSE HER FRIENDS
BESIDES..
WELL, WE CAN'T FORCE HER, SO THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT
WE DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN REALLY TRUST HIM.
BUT THIS IS THE GUY WHO NEVER SHOWED UP WHEN YUE TOLD HIM SHE "WANTED TO SEE HIM"

I BELIEVE THAT IF YUE SHOWS TRUST IN HIM,
THEN THAT'S PROOF THAT HE MUST NOT BE THAT BAD OF A PERSON.
STILL...
HE HASN'T APOLOGIZED AT ALL FOR THAT TIME WHEN HE HURT YUE
AS A FELLOW MEMBER OF SOCIETY... I'M STILL SKEPTICAL
YOU'RE SUCH A WORRYWART, MR. MANAGER!
GOOD JOB MAKING IT THROUGH YOUR INTERVIEW, JAY!
HOW DID IT GO?

OH, MISS YUE!
UM... SO THEY'RE LETTING ME STAY HERE!
I'M ALSO GETTING AN ID TOMOR-ROW!
MY ROOM'S IN THE BOARDING HOUSE...
NOW I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY WHEN I GO OUTSIDE...
THANKS!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!
HEH HEH!
NOW YOU'RE A MEMBER OF THE ZUI DIE HUA FAMILY!
WELCOME ABOARD!

OH? HEY, BOY! DIDJA PASS THE INTERVIEW?
YES, THANKS TO EVERY-ONE!
THAT'S GREAT!
CONGRATU-LATIONS!
LET'S ALL GO OUT FOR A DRINK LATER TO CELE-BRATE!
BACCHUS, HE'S UNDERAGE...
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, JUST ASK US, YOUR SENIORS!
ALSO IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOUGH UNTIL YOU GET USED TO EVERYTHING, SO REST UP TODAY!
SO IT IS GONNA BE TOUGH, THEN...?
YEAH, WE DO GET PRETTY BUSY

UM... IT'S KIND OF LATE, BUT WILL THERE BE ANY INTRODUCTIONS?
OH, WE CAN DO THAT TOMORROW WHEN EVERYONE'S GATHERED IN ONE PLACE
YOU GET LONG BREAKS, TOO!
BUT WE PAY FAIR WAGES TO EVERYONE INCLUDING THE ASSISTANTS AND SERVERS.
WE ALSO PLAN OUT REASONABLE SHIFT HOURS SO DON'T WORRY!
AND YOUR ASSIGNMENT HASN'T BEEN DECIDED YET EITHER
WE HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE, EVEN JUST COUNTING THE ACTORS!
IT'D BE HARD TO DO ONE-BY-ONE, RIGHT?
SO WE'LL JUST LEAVE OUR INTRODUCTIONS FOR TOMORROW!

TOMORROW, WE GET TO HAVE YOUR FUN, FUN, SPECIAL ABILITY ASSESSMENT!
DON'T...
FOR...
GET!
WHAT!?
YOU GUYS WEREN'T KIDDING!?
I'D LIKE TO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES...
NO CAN DO!
ALL NEW-COMERS HAVE TO DO IT! IT'S TRADITION!
JUST GIVE IN!
AWW.

IS EVERYONE GOING TO GO EAT?
YUP! AND THE BARON'S TREATING!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, YUE?
I STILL WANT TO TALK WITH JAY FOR A LITTLE BIT.
I'M HUNGRY!
YES, YES, WE KNOW! WE'LL GO SOON!
HM.. I GUESS WE CAN'T DO MUCH ABOUT THAT...
GOOD WORK TODAY! SEE YOU TWO LATER!
ALRIGHT! LET'S DRINK!
PLEASE GO EASY ON ME AND MY WALLET, GUYS...

IT'S KIND OF LIKE AN AUDITION
THEY'LL TEST THINGS LIKE YOUR BODY'S FLEXIBILITY, BALANCE, AND SENSE OF RHYTHM..
THEY'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU'RE MOST SUITED FOR,
THINGS LIKE THAT
MISS YUE, WHAT EXACTLY DO I HAVE TO DO FOR AN "ABILITY ASSESSMENT?"
I HAVE TO AUDITION EVEN IF I JUST WANT TO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES?
WELL, PEOPLE DON'T ALWAYS REALIZE THEIR HIDDEN POTENTIAL
AND IT ALSO HELPS IN CHOOSING THE RIGHT INSTRUCTOR FOR YOU.
IN ANY CASE, IT'S PRETTY SIMPLE, SO DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT MESSING UP. YOU'LL BE FINE!
BESIDES, WHAT YOU WANT TAKES PRIORITY,
WHAT I WANT...
SO IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL BE FORCED TO BECOME AN ACTOR OR ANYTHING
THANK GOODNESS!

I WAS WONDERING...
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT LONG CHEN?
OH YEAH, ONCE I'VE COMPLETED THE NEXT HURDLE, I SHOULD GO THANK MR. TAKAOMI!
HEY, JAY...
TAKAOMI
WHO'S LONG CHEN?
AH, FROM THE DAY BEFORE YESTER-DAY!
SO THERE WAS THE BATTLE IN BACK ALLEY OF FORTUNE MARKET, RIGHT?
WITH THAT LIZARD HALF-BEAST?
WELL, I WENT TO GO TALK TO HIM YESTER-DAY, RIGHT?

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU WERE THERE, WEREN'T YOU, MISS YUE?
SO YOU SAW THAT, RIGHT?
YES.
IT'S FINE! I GET THAT A LOT.
I... I'M SO SORRY! I HAD THE WRONG IMPRESSION THIS WHOLE TIME AND NEVER NOTICED
SO I WAS TRYING TO..
GET HIM TO TELL ME HOW TO CONTRACT THE CHIMERA DISEASE..
THE CHIMERA DISEASE!?

BUT WHY DID YOU WANT TO CONTRACT THE DISEASE?
OH MY..
YEAH, A TON
YOU ASKED SUCH A THING DID LONG CHEN YELL AT YOU?
I WAS NEVER ABLE TO GET ALONG WITH ANY COMMUNITIES BECAUSE OF THAT
SO EVEN WHEN WE'RE JUST STEALING FOOD AND RUNNING AWAY, I ALWAYS HOLD EVERY-ONE BACK
...I'M SMALL AND CLUMSY
SO I THOUGHT ABOUT TRYING TO LIVE ON MY OWN,
BUT I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH.
I SEE...
THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT I NEEDED THE POWER OF A BEASTMAN, TO BE ABLE TO SURVIVE ON MY OWN.

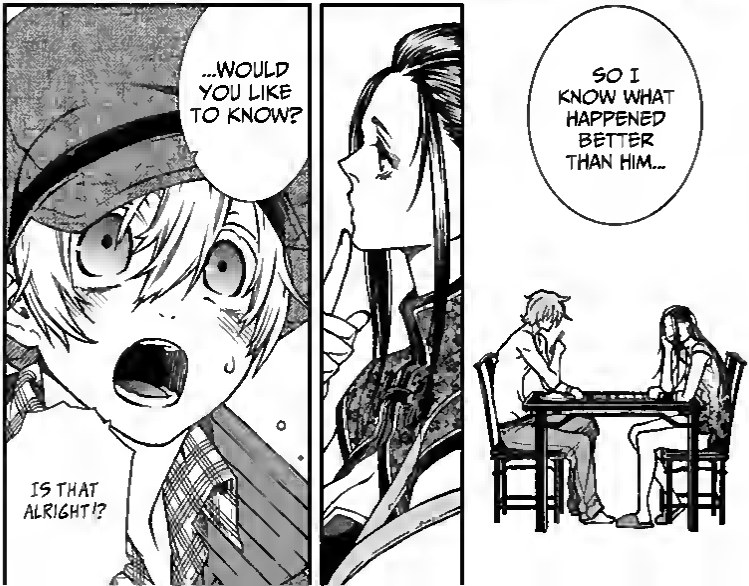
HE SAID IT WAS A MIRACLE THAT HE WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO HUMAN FORM,
AND THAT USUALLY ONCE YOU TRANSFORM TO A BEAST, YOU CAN'T TURN BACK
AND WHAT DID LONG CHEN SAY?
HE SAID THAT THE CHIMERA DISEASE WOULDN'T PROTECT ME OR MY FRIENDS AT ALL
THEN HE TOLD ME ABOUT WHEN HE FIRST CAUGHT THE DISEASE..
.....
BUT MR. TAKAOMI WAS ABLE TO TURN BACK, RIGHT?
SO HE CAN CONTROL IT...

LONG CHEN IS STILL SUFFERING..
HE'S MERELY SUPPRESSING THE BEAST WITHIN HIM.
WHAT'S MORE, IT'S TAKING BOTH OF US TO DO IT...
BOTH ..?
OH RIGHT, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO STOPPED MR TAKAOMI IN HIS BEAST FORM, RIGHT?

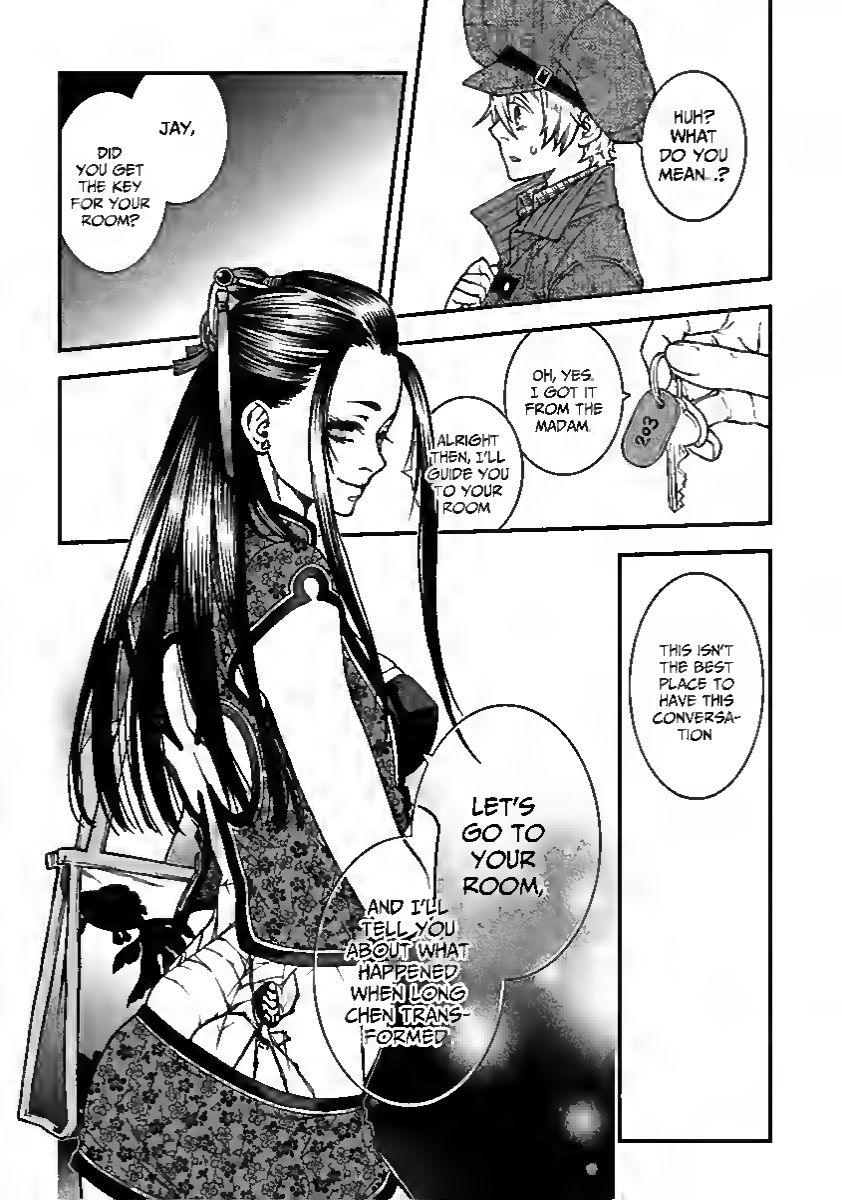
THEN, DID YOU STOP HIM BACK THEN, TOO?
YUP.
ACTUALLY...
HIS RAMPAGE WAS HOW I MET HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I SEE! SO THAT'S HOW!
TH— THAT'S PRETTY AMAZING! GOING AGAINST A BEASTMAN LIKE THAT
HM?
BUT HE DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT THAT DURING HIS STORY.
YEAH,
HE DOESN'T TALK ABOUT IT BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HIS MEMORIES OF IT.

IT'S MORE LIKE HE NEVER HAD ANY MEMORIES OF IT IN THE FIRST PLACE
NOT QUITE
CONFIDENCE IN HIS MEMORIES..?
SO HE FORGOT THINGS?

IT SEEMS THAT HE DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM WHEN HE WENT ON A RAMPAGE


...WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW?
IS THAT ALRIGHT!?
SO I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BETTER THAN HIM...

OF COURSE! ...OR SO I'D LIKE TO SAY, BUT...
I DON'T THINK LONG CHEN BROUGHT YOU HERE..
IT'S VERY LATE. WILL YOU BE ALRIGHT?
YEAH, I'LL BE FINE
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I STAYED IN THE BOARDING HOUSE, BUT IT'S NICE!
ALSO, THIS IS JUST MY INTUITION, BUT..
OUT OF PURE KINDNESS


HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN..?
JAY, DID YOU GET THE KEY FOR YOUR ROOM?
OH, YES. I GOT IT FROM THE MADAM.
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ALRIGHT THEN, I'LL GUIDE YOU TO YOUR ROOM
THIS ISN'T THE BEST PLACE TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION
LET'S GO TO YOUR ROOM,
AND I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WHEN LONG CHEN TRANSFORMED